

Chicopee Register

Comp seniors find a new way to celebrate

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

May 12 quickly became a day to remember for the entirety of Chicopee Comprehensive High School's Class of 2020. An emotional car parade culminated as seniors received yearbooks, caps, gowns and a rare opportunity to celebrate together.

"I can't tell you how happy those kids were and how big those smiles were on their faces. Today was huge for them," said Assistant Principal Joe Morissette. "The seniors have set an unbelievable standard of how to handle diversity. They've adjusted on the fly and other students moving forward can learn from them that no matter what life throws at you, you have to adapt."

The Class of 2020 overcame challenges far different than those that had previously been encountered by any recent senior class at Comp. A jubilant atmosphere arose as hundreds of students partook in last Tuesday's festivity.

"I'm stoked; I'm having

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STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

From left Chicopee Comprehensive High School seniors Julianna Beaulieu, Lily Cushing, Kim Harrington, Kayleigh Dion, Bella Demosthenous and Taryn Langlois celebrated being "out" in style on the afternoon of May 12.

Left: A group of parents and friends on Montgomery Street cheer Comp seniors as they drive by on May 12.



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CFD promotes 2 to lieutenant
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Westover frontline workers recognized for service
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Comp volleyball would have been competitive
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tanhauser rescinds motion seeking second AD

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

For the past 10 months, Ward 1 School Committee representative James Tanhauser has pushed for the district to hire a second athletic director. Now, due to current circumstances, he rescinded that motion during the May 13 virtual meeting of the Chicopee School Committee.

Tanhauser's plan called for the hiring of a second athletic director to work alongside Director of Athletics Sean Mackin, who oversees the athletic interests of both Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

"The main concern was having one individual in control of two different high schools. I understand that we want both high schools to mirror each other in terms of

equipment they're investing in and the direction that they're going in, but I felt that it would be better for both high schools if we kind of split them apart," said Tanhauser.

Tanhauser noted that he may well bring the topic back into the fold when the pandemic recedes. Right now, however, fall sports are an uncertainty, a point that Assistant Superintendent Alvin Morton made resoundingly clear.

"If you're reading the tea leaves and actively paying attention to the national news, California has canceled all sports on the college level. It would seem to me that we most likely will not have any, at least fall sports, and I don't know about winter," he said.

Morton based his take on information he received from Mackin, who has been in close communication with the Mas-

sachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

"One of the things [Mackin] did speak about is that the MIAA is already looking at canceling all sports and possibly not having sports until winter," said Morton.

Marybeth Costello, Ward 9 School Committee member, offered a similar perspective. She believes that high school sports will not occur again for a long while.

"As far as fall sports go, it wouldn't be surprising to me because there is no vaccine and treatments, we may not see a lot of social interaction in the state of Massachusetts immediately. I think we all have to proceed with caution," she said.

Costello stated that without the existence of a treatment and vaccine for COVID-19, resuming high sports would be

a dangerous and risk proposition. She voiced her concerns regarding the virus' continuous development.

"What is alarming about this virus is that we just learned that children have been affected; something in regards to inflammation. Several children have died in New York. I'm not trying to be an alarmist, but the scientists have publicly discussed this," said Costello.

We also have to be concerned with people under the age of 65 that have pre-existing conditions. You could be 55 and have hypertension. You can be 55 and have diabetes. You can be 55 and have respiratory problems. That puts you in a very vulnerable category even though you're not elderly."

As of May 19, no official decision has been made pertaining to the status of fall sports.

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Bellamy students hungry for education

Funding gap looms at RiverMills

Will raise a flag in neighborhood

School Committee seat remains vacant

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New lieutenants stay true to their hometown roots

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Two Chicopee fire-fighters recently climbed the ladder in the course of earning the rank of lieutenant.

Lt. Aaron Lombardino and Lt. Mark Kosiorek received the promotion after committing countless hours to intense studying and physical preparation.

“You go through different scenarios and get critiqued on your knowledge and experience and how you handle yourself on the fire department. It was a very long process, but the end result is that it paid off,” said Lombardino.

Lombardino and Kosiorek were both born and raised in Chicopee.

Lombardino joined the department 14 years ago and Kosiorek is currently celebrating his 26th year on the job.

Both men take immense pride in knowing that they serve their fellow residents. Kosiorek explained the significance of the responsibility that comes alongside being a member of your home city’s department.

“I grew up here so it means the world to me; all of my life I’ve been associated with Chicopee,” he said. “I graduated in ’79 from Chicopee High School, went to St. Stan’s and I’ve worked in Chicopee forever. It means a lot to work in the city I grew up in. I know a lot of people, a lot of friends and a lot of families; it feels



Lt. Aaron Lombardino, an Air Force veteran, was recently promoted to his current position in the Chicopee Fire Department.

good to be a part of it.” Lombardino expressed similar sentiment. The Air Force veteran was deployed to Pakistan in 2002 and Iraq in 2003. Even on



Lt. Aaron Lombardino of the Chicopee Fire Department stands with his family shortly after receiving his current rank.

the other side of the world, he never lost his affinity for the city or the desire to return and serve it. “The fire department has a very rich history and



Lt. Mark Kosiorek has been a member of the Chicopee Fire Department for 26 years. He recently earned the rank of lieutenant.

is steeped in tradition so I just wanted to be a part of that team and that brotherhood. That really motivated me to, overall, give back to the city I grew up in and being able to help those in need. I have a lot of family and friends here; it’s a very rewarding job to be able to help those in your community,” said Lombardino.

When it comes to taking the officer’s test, applicants must prepare for months while maintaining an unwavering sense of focus. Total and complete dedication is required to pass; Kosiorek was successful in doing so during his fourth attempt.

“It’s very competitive in Chicopee. These guys put a lot of effort into it. You really have to score

well to try to get promoted,” he said. “It’s tough on the family because you have to commit so much of your time to if you really want the job. To pass, you really have to put the time and effort in. It takes a family commitment to do it.”

Family is precisely the reason why Kosiorek joined the department; he credits his cousins, one a retired deputy chief and the other a retired captain, for sparking his passion for the career.

“My cousins told me what the job is about and got my interest; they gave me the heads up. I’m kind of following in their footsteps,” said Kosiorek. “That is what what led me to this job; I’d have to say it’s my cousins and a passion to help people. I mean, who doesn’t want to do that?”

Lombardino also thanked his family, stating that they’ve “been by my side since day one.” He continued on to thank Chief Daniel Stamborski and the other senior members of the department who have paved the way.

“They taught me everything they know. They taught me how to be a good firefighter and a good officer; how to respect the job and how to do it right. Family, friends, firefighters, the officers when I first got on the job and throughout my career; every single one of them taught me how to be a firefighter and a better person,” said Lombardino.

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Chicopee Register
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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Giving thanks to responders at Westover ARB

Wilbraham eatery, USO deliver lunches to essential base workers

By **Tyler S. Witkop**
Staff Writer

WILBRAHAM – Essential workers like hospital staff, police and firefighters have been on the minds of the nation for their collective efforts keeping communities across the globe as safe as possible during the current public health emergency.

As a way of saying “Thank You,” two local organizations collaborated to make a difference where it matters most, in the stomachs of hungry frontline workers at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee.

For the last month, Frank Gencarelli, owner of the Village Store & Cafe in Wilbraham, has taken to the Internet crowdfunding site GoFundMe to solicit community donations to cover the cost of making 50 sandwich wraps, pasta salads and more to responders across Western Massachusetts. With the assistance of the Pioneer Valley USO, essential base workers including medical, fire and police crews were able to get a free meal Thursday, May 14.

“This is absolutely wonderful; the patriotism of the community speaks volumes,” said David Mendoza, of South Hadley, president of the Pioneer Valley USO and a 1984 Minnechaug Regional High School graduate. “Donations like this allow us to better take care of our active duty families. They’re so excited.”



STAFF PHOTO BY TYLER S. WITKOP

David Mendoza (left), president of the Pioneer Valley USO, and Frank Gencarelli, owner of the Village Store & Cafe in Wilbraham, load a car with fresh-made sandwich wraps, pasta salads and more to deliver to frontline workers at Westover Air Reserve Base in appreciation of their efforts.

Gencarelli said a fair number of his customers are essential workers in the response to the new coronavirus, including doctors, nurses, firefighters and police officers. Realizing that many of these individuals are working 12-hour shifts with little time for meal breaks at work – and limited time at home to acquire and prepare meals – he decided to put the cafe’s kitchen to work and help fuel his friends and neighbors.

He launched the GoFundMe cam-

paign in mid-April, “Lunches For Western Mass First Responders,” with a goal of \$400 that would cover the cost to prepare 50 sandwiches as well as pasta salads, chips and cookies. By the end of the day, a handful of donors contributed \$105 and by the end of the next, he secured enough funds to make the meals. As of press time, the initiative has secured \$2,780 through the online service, as well as cash and check donations delivered in-person by community members.

With meal deliveries already made to Baystate, Mercy and Cooley Dickinson hospitals, and now Westover, Gencarelli said he intends to continue the service as long as he can and will continue to accept donations to put smiles on the faces of those risking their lives on the job each day.

“We’re not going to stop; we’re going to keep going,” Gencarelli said, noting he and his staff have been re-energized with the fundraiser. “Let’s keep people moving.”

On the morning of May 14, Mendoza and USO volunteer Frank Ludwig, a Wilbraham veteran, drove to the Village Store to pick up the meals, which this reporter witnessed being made fresh for the day’s lunch.

“Frank is very supportive of our troops,” Ludwig said of Gencarelli.

Mendoza said he hopes to continue working with Gencarelli and his former community to continue making a difference to the local troops, perhaps targeting different shifts.

“Everybody’s impacted differently [by COVID-19], but we come together as a community with a common mission,” he said.

Those wishing to make a donation or to learn more about the campaign, visit www.gofundme.com/f/lunches-for-western-mass-first-responders.

For more information about the Village Store, call 596-3300.

To learn more about the Pioneer Valley USO or to make donations, visit pioneervalley.uso.org.

Memorial Day ceremonies to take place virtually May 25

The Chicopee Veterans’ Memorial and Patriotic Committee and the Chicopee Department of Veterans’ Services ask that all Americans come together to recognize a life of freedom and to observe a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation’s service.

“The last Monday in May has held the traditions for Memorial Day for nearly 50 years now. From putting up flags, attending family picnics, making speeches and marching in parades people have been coming together in community spirit and national unity for all generations of loved ones lost in service to be remembered on this very special day since 1868 and is no different in 2019, 150 years later,” Stephanie Shaw, director of veterans’ services said. “I am proud to be a part of the planning and organization of the parade, and look forward to sharing with all of you who will be joining us to celebrate here in Chicopee.”

Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, Shaw said the city will not have a Memorial Day Parade or in person pla-

za ceremony. In its place, her office has created a video program to be aired on Chicopee TV repeatedly Monday, May 25. The link will also be available on the Department of Veterans’ Services website and all social media accounts.

The Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 111 has recorded their traditional Candle-light Ceremony as well, and on Sunday, May 24 at 7 p.m. it will be aired on Chicopee TV’s channel as well as made available via the Chicopee’s Department of Veterans’ Services website and social media accounts.

All are invited to watch the 2020 Memorial Day activities from the safety of their homes.

Shaw said many of the annual veterans-related events held in May have been postponed and will be by invitation only once rescheduled, including the Gold Star Family Luncheon and the Charles H. Tracy Award. The Purple Heart Luncheon is tentatively scheduled for Friday, Aug. 7.

For more information, contact Shaw at 594-3470.

Elms plans to re-open in fall 2020

The College of Our Lady of the Elms announced it intends to reopen campus for the fall 2020 semester following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Elms President Harry Dumay has appointed a task force of campus leaders in academics, residential life, public safety and other areas to assess the possible return of services such as on-campus housing and dining. The task force will determine when the services can reopen while at the same time ensuring the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff. An official reopening date will be determined with the task force’s recommendations.

“We will only allow our students to return to campus by observing the COVID-19 health and safety guidelines and recommendations of state and national public health experts,” Dumay said. “It is also likely that there will be a number of changes to the way we have operated in the past in terms of social interactions and other protocols.”

He noted that all summer session courses will remain online.

For additional information regarding Elms College’s monitoring, planning and response to COVID-19, visit www.elms.edu/coronavirus.

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GUEST COLUMN

Investing in our new normal with municipal broadband

As schools and businesses close their doors to prevent the spread of COVID-19, many students and employees have transitioned to “remote work.” Unfortunately, millions of Americans lack access to a reliable Internet connection at home. For decades, cable companies have monopolized Internet access, forcing our communities to accept unreliable, unaffordable and unequal service. The fact is, people need to access the Internet. COVID-19 has exposed our country’s stubborn digital divide, and the solution is municipal broadband — a tested policy solution that can help sustain us today and protect us tomorrow.



Joel D. McAuliffe

Last year, my city of Chicopee launched a pilot program for municipal broadband, creating a public Internet infrastructure that has helped many in our city stay connected during the pandemic. The program is operated by Chicopee Electric Light, a public utility company which has worked for over one hundred years to provide affordable electricity to Chicopee residents. While private cable companies have sat on their monopolies and refused to update technology, CEL’s “Cross-roads Fiber” initiative deploys a network of fiber-optic cables which are over 100 percent faster than previous options, and is more affordable. Even more importantly, the new technology is more reliable: Fiber optic cables continue working during power outages and remain lightning-fast no matter how many users are plugged-in. These past few months, Internet usage has spiked worldwide, but municipal broadband is allowing hundreds of people in Chicopee to stay connected without interruption.

This unprecedented pandemic has shown the importance of a strong, reliable Internet connection. Working from home requires a good Internet connection. Video-conferencing platforms like Zoom require workers to have stable connections. Good Internet also keeps us healthy: A less pixelated video can help a doctor to inspect a patient during a virtual “telehealth” appointment, and reliable audio helps us communicate with the people we miss.

Students face similar challenges. While Chicopee alone has handed out around 1,600 Chromebooks to students, these devices require an Internet connection for their most basic functions. Even in households where students have the capacity to send emails and download worksheets, many face frustrating lag and disastrous crashes during critical moments, even during high-stakes online testing. As school districts transition to remote learning, many low-income families are reliant on the generosity of big cable companies. Too often, corporate responsibility does not go far enough.

During this unprecedented time, if we truly want to ensure a level playing field for all Americans, we must invest in municipal broadband. In Chicopee, the fiber-optic network is expanding. Eventually, the city will be divided into 140 “fiberhoods,” a term that captures the Internet’s role in sustaining our communities. Fiber-optic cables are indeed essential components of a well-functioning neighborhood, and as neighbors we owe it to each other to expand this critical infrastructure. With municipal broadband, residents would be protected in a crisis, and monopolies would not be able to dominate the Internet market after we reach our “new normal.”

With the forward-looking expansion of its municipal broadband program, Chicopee is preparing itself to be part of the economy that will come next. This pandemic has forever changed our attitudes about what can be

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GUEST COLUMN

When duties call, heroes answer

By Joan E. B. Coombs
Guest Columnist

Heroic men and women of all sizes, shapes and ethnic backgrounds live and work within our towns and cities answering calls to duties for our safety and well-being. They use their trained skills and expertise to help us, either as a professional or volunteer, to help us. Whether it’s providing helpful support and information, or it’s a life-threatening situation, they answer the call to help.

Although Firefighter’s Day was observed earlier on May 4 this year, honoring firefighters both locally and globally is appropriate every day. In European countries, it’s also celebrated on the day honoring St. Florian, the patron saint of firefighters. Symbolically, blue and red ribbons or lights represent red for fire and blue for water. The author of “The Firefighter’s Pledge” is unknown, but that person is honored each time a firefighter recites it, “I promise concern for others. A willingness to help all those in need. I promise courage – courage to face and conquer my fears. Courage to share and endure the ordeal of those who need me. I promise strength – strength of heart to bear whatever burdens might be placed upon

me. Strength of body to deliver to safety all those placed within my care. I promise the wisdom to lead, the compassion to comfort and the love to serve unselfishly whenever I am called.”

Currently, National Nurses Week was observed during May 6-12, with appreciation shown for school nurses working in educational settings. International Nurses Day is celebrated globally on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale. During a pinning ceremony, several years ago, I heard “The Nightingale Pledge” (written in 1893) shared: “I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I will do all in my power to maintain and elevated the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge, in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I aid the physician in his work, and as a missionary of health, I will dedicate myself to devoted service for human welfare.”

National Police Week

was celebrated May 10-16. The C.O.P.S. Law Enforcement Survivors announced that due to the COVID-19 health restrictions in Washington, D.C. and Virginia, and the travel advisories throughout the country, the National Police Week’s public events were canceled. However, Fallen Law Enforcement Officers were honored during a Virtual Candlelight Vigil on May 13. Special recognition and names of the each of the men and women, who died in the line of duty in 2019, were read aloud. This important event held on the National Mall, (usually with more than 30,000 first responders, surviving families and law enforcement attendees), was live streamed and viewed globally.

Heroes are among us ready to serve. They respond readily to disasters, emergencies and to domestic traumas.

One of the calls that heroes respond to is the three-digit number: “9-1-1” This “Universal Emergency Number” is for U.S. residents to use when needing emergency help. Canada also uses this same number. When seeing the “9-1-1” number it reminds us all of a take-your-breath-away day in 2001 when our country was shocked. That date? 9/11.

Let’s be thankful that when duties call, real heroes answer.



Joan E. B. Coombs



Letters to the Editor

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sonal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Tyler Witkop
chicopeeregister@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Dalton Zbierski
dzbierski@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



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Wendy Delcamp
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Editor
Tyler Witkop
chicopeeregister@turley.com

WEB

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com



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A group of Comp seniors celebrated in the parking lot of AMVETS 12 following a car parade in which they received their gowns and hats.



Seniors Liz Berroa, Alejandro Rios, Angelique Santiago, Adamaris David and Alyssa Wooley enjoy one of their last moments together as Chicopee Comprehensive High School students.



Volunteers and school employees handed out caps and gowns to Chicopee Comp seniors on the afternoon of May 12.



Chicopee police were on hand at Comp on May 12 to ensure safety.



A new sign greeted visitors to Chicopee Comprehensive High School last Tuesday during a celebratory car parade.



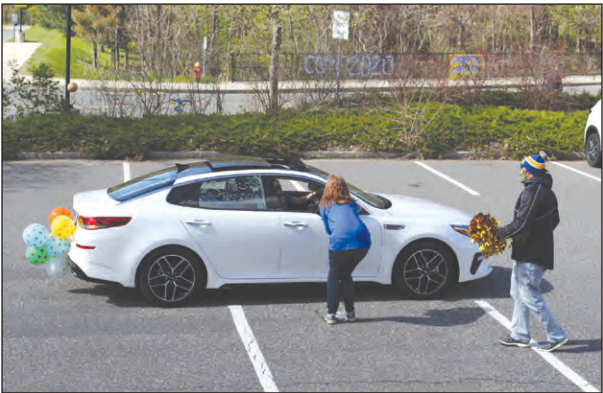
A happy senior drives off last Tuesday after receiving her cap and gown.



Alongside her fellow seniors, soon-to-be Chicopee Comp graduate Melody Alcantara takes in the car parade through the sun roof.



Vehicles full of excited Comp seniors wait in line May 12 to participate in a car parade.



Volunteers hand out caps and gowns to Chicopee Comp seniors on the afternoon of May 12.

COMP from page 1

the best time of my life,” said Kayleigh Dion, a senior. “We haven’t seen each other in so long. After everything that’s happened, this is the most amazing experience for us to have. I can’t thank anyone enough for putting this together.” Fellow senior Taryn Langlois touched on the difficulties that have been associated with the past two months, but refused to let them dampen her mood. On May 12, Langlois was reunited with her closest friends, a luxury that she fully cherished.

“Today, I’m super excited and a little bit sad, but I’m mainly excited because I haven’t seen anyone in so long,” she said. “Chicopee Comp doing this for us is just a great feeling because our senior year got cut short, and we didn’t get to make the memories that some people do. I’m having a great time seeing them again.”

At the onset of the event, students gathered in the parking lot of AMVETS Post 12. Shortly thereafter, they drove to the nearby Montgomery Street campus of Chicopee Comp.

There, Chicopee Police officers directed traffic while school employees and volunteers distributed a number of items to the students in each passing vehicle. Dozens of spectators arrived on the grounds to cheer on the graduating class.

“As we went around the school, all of the parents and teachers and administrators were there and have signs and are screaming for all of us and cheering us on,” said Comp senior Juliana Beaulieu. “Then, we got our yearbooks, our caps, our gowns and our class president gave us fake little diplomas. Everybody has been so supportive of us; making sure that our senior year is still filled with a whole bunch of memories.”

For Zachary Bunyan, the day was bittersweet. With lacrosse season canceled, the parade allowed Bunyan to reacquire with his teammates and enjoy a final moment beside them.

“It’s been great to see a lot of people I haven’t seen in a while because we’ve all been in quarantine; just getting to ride



A young supporter, or child genius who skipped six grades, participates in the car parade at Chicopee Comp on May 12.

around with my buddies,” he said. “This just shows that the [administrators] are really trying to make something for us with everything that’s happened. We’re all very appreciative of that.”

Comp students will walk next month on either June 19 or 20. Morissette noted that seniors have adopted the phrase, “Making it work,” and explained how students will complete the tradition while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

“There will be set appointments and when [students will] go across the stage, we’ll have a space for them to take photos with their families. Once that family is done, they’ll move on and another family waiting in the wing will come in,” he said.

The Class of 2020 may have been deprived of many of the memories that high school seniors hold dear, but that reality will not deter seniors from reveling in their graduation. Beaulieu made it clear that last Tuesday’s celebration was one for the history books.

“We were one of the first ones here, getting the party started,” she said. “We’re taking a lot of pictures with our friends because this is probably one of the last chances that we’ll get to make memories with one another. You might as well take pics and make it worth it.”

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- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. It's now called Experian
 - 4. You can draw it
 - 7. Very fast aircraft
 - 10. Go quickly
 - 11. Fifth note of a major scale
 - 12. Biochemical abbreviation
 - 13. Make somebody laugh
 - 15. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 - 16. City in NE Morocco
 - 19. Colorless gas
 - 21. NE football player
 - 23. A snake is one
 - 24. Small spot
 - 25. Inform
 - 26. Republic of Ireland
 - 27. Large statues
 - 30. Documents about an individual
 - 34. Helps little firms
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 35. Namibia's former name
 - 36. Large insects
 - 41. Thirsty
 - 45. A well-defined track or path
 - 46. One who utilizes mammals
 - 47. Plant-eating
 - 50. Not in tip-top shape
 - 54. Alternate names
 - 55. A part of a broadcast serial
 - 56. City in central Italy
 - 57. LOTR actor McKellen
 - 59. Trees provide it
 - 60. Men's fashion accessory
 - 61. Type of screen
 - 62. Snake-like fish
 - 63. Possesses
 - 64. When you aim to get there
 - 65. Tooth caregiver
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 31. Similar
 - 32. Female sheep
 - 33. Cool!
 - 37. Borders the Adriatic Sea
 - 38. Flowers
 - 39. It's sometimes upped
 - 40. Immobile
 - 41. Female body parts
 - 42. Common request
 - 43. Made a second thrust
 - 44. Fell into deep sleep
 - 47. Subway resident
 - 48. Brew
 - 49. The event of being born
 - 51. Aspirations
 - 52. Doctor of Education
 - 53. Punk musician — Dee Ramone
 - 58. A subdivision of a play

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 8

RiverMills serves as a beacon of hope for Chicopee seniors

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic will not diminish the collective spirit of Chicopee's seniors. Elderly residents are among the most vulnerable in the city but they can rest assured knowing that the Council on Aging will do all that it can to reinforce their mental and physical well-being.

Throughout the pandemic, the RiverMills Center has successfully operated its curbside lunch program, "Meals on Wheels." The initiative occurs three times each week outside of the center, located at 5 W. Main St.

"We are preparing meals Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for 250

seniors per day," said Sherry Manyak, COA executive director. "We're here in our kitchen every single day prepping our food and getting it ready for the meals. We're all doing it; even our head of maintenance is in the kitchen helping us. We're all in there together as a team."

The COA recently received a \$5,000 Community Development Block Grant and a "mini-grant" from Health New England, both of which are helping to financially support the operation. At each session, seniors are also asked to donate \$2.

The senior center itself is currently 70 percent staffed; most employees are working out of their own office spaces, preserv-



STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

While still closed to the public to curb the spread of the new coronavirus, the RiverMills Center, 5 W. Main St., continues to offer limited initiatives in support of the city's seniors.

ing a safe working environment. The COA's wellness checks have also been effective, Manyak explained.

"We have two police officers that the police department has given us, and they go out to do wellness checks and deliver meals for us. They also help when we go out into the community to give out masks. They've been very generous with their time," she said.

Over the past two months, COA employees have spent several hours outside of Big Y, Stop & Shop and CVS distributing free masks to individ-

uals of all ages who need one. Seniors can pre-order a mask and pick it up at the center by contacting Manyak or a member of her team.

Senior center employees are also handing out paper towels, toilet paper and groceries on a weekly basis. The COA has made a concerted effort to keep in touch with not only its members but all of Chicopee's seniors.

"We did a postcard mailing out to all the seniors in Chicopee so every household that has a senior receives a post card from us giving them informa-

tion on Meals on Wheels, help with the census, veterans services, fuel assistance and the ability to be put on a wellness list," said Manyak.

In order to familiarize seniors with technology that will better allow them to communicate, Program Technician Jona Ruiz is leading online Zoom tutorials and will soon be offering one-on-one lessons.

The COA has also launched an exercise class that airs on ChicopeeTV at different times each day. More information can be found on ChicopeeTV's Facebook page or the COA's website.

Manyak has been highly impressed with how COA staff members have carried themselves during the pandemic. Despite the trying circumstances, each individual has been willing to assume added responsibility.

"My staff has been amazing. Everyone's chipping in; it's actually become a well-oiled machine," said Manyak, specifically referring to the 'Meals on Wheels' program. "When the cars line up, there's a whole process that we go through. Each


person has a job to do, and it's been getting better as each day goes by. I'm very proud of everyone who has chipped in to help us."

In addition to offering meals and other important supplies, the COA is still making its transportation services available. Seniors in need of a ride to the pharmacy, grocery store or a doctor's appointment are encouraged to call the center; individuals who are showing COVID-19-related symptoms are asked to refrain from doing so.

As the state attempts to slowly reopen, COA staff will prepare itself for the day in which seniors are once again permitted inside of the building. Until that point, Manyak and her team will stay religiously committed to completing outreach.

"It's very important to let them know that we're here. We're getting 200-300 calls a day and we're all answering phones. They all have different questions. We're trying to give them as much help as they need out there," said Manyak.


Manyak can be reached at 413-534-3698 ext. 111.




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Sports

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VOLLEYBALL

Comp boys volleyball would have been competitive

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Comprehensive High School boys volleyball team has had a long reputation of success over many years.

The five seniors who would have been on this year's team would have had similar success, according to their coach Brittany Dussault.

"I had very high hopes this 2020 spring season," said Dussault. "After only graduating three players last year we had a dedicated core group of returning players with a lot of past experience. I was eager to take our play to the next level due to the large amount of players participating in club volleyball during the off-season. It has been a pleasure to work with this group of young men and I will miss them all very much."

Nate LePage has had a history of success both in volleyball and the football field as the quarterback of the Colts, a play-off team the last two years. Dussault said LePage would have been a lead for the Colts.

"LePage is the definition of a natural leader on and off the court," said Dussault. "He



FILE PHOTOS

Nate LePage would have been a captain for the Colts this spring.



Daniel Mogan competes in a match last year.

See **VOLLEYBALL** page 8

BASKETBALL

Hall to present 'Women's Challenge' games

UNCASVILLE, Conn. – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today the matchups for the Hall of Fame Women's Challenge on Saturday, November 28th and Sunday, November 29th at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn.

Local favorite and 11-time National Champions UConn (which joins the Big East Conference on July 1) will take on Quinnipiac (Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference) in the opening round, and Maine (America East

Conference) will faceoff with Mississippi State (Southeastern Conference). The championship and consolation game will follow on Sunday.

"The Basketball Hall of Fame is proud to celebrate the women's game with our Women's Challenge at Mohegan Sun, a longtime partner of the Hall and a beautiful property for fans to enjoy," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. "UConn fans have cre-

ated an outstanding environment for the many matchups played here over the years and we are excited to host our three additional participating schools in a first-class event."

The Women's Challenge is one event in the Hall of Fame's series of collegiate events, which continues to grow in an effort to celebrate the game outside the museum walls. Tickets will be available for purchase via the

See **BASKETBALL** page 8

COVID-19

Guidelines set for safe golfing

REGION – Golf is a healthy outdoor activity that is viable and relatively low risk. It is also an outlet for people to exercise and seek some physical and mental respite from the state's stay-at-home advisory, all while supporting economic activity and employment in the local golf industry. With vast areas of open space with fresh-cut grass, trees, streams and ponds, a golf course provides the unique ability for social distancing in a stress-free environment.

That said, there are guidelines that will be in place to protect the safety of our golf community, including players, golf course staff, and club and course officials. These changes cover everything from booking a tee time to departing the golf course, and all things between. The ultimate goal is to keep everyone safe while they're playing and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As golf season resumes, it is the responsibility of members and employees at all Massachusetts golf courses and facilities to strictly adhere to these guidelines that the state's Re-Opening Advisory Board has issued

to ensure that golf remains an appropriate recreational activity. Additional measures may be put into place as we adapt to the "new normal" for the foreseeable future.

"We're excited that this first step has been made to re-open golf," said Jesse Menachem, Mass Golf's Executive Director/CEO. "Our work isn't done yet. We will continue to work with the Governor's Administration to further clarify the orders and keep our members informed as the situation continues to evolve. We will base our decisions surrounding Mass Golf events on the safety and well-being of all of us."

As a reminder, we are in score posting season and the USGA has addressed questions regarding Rules and Handicapping during the COVID-19 era. Please click here for more information.

We understand that this year has been and will continue to be different than others. We'll miss the celebratory high-fives and socializing in the clubhouse after your round concludes, but we

See **GOLF** page 8

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Submit senior athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

The senior features have already started rolling out, but if you have not seen your senior featured, we encouraged you to

send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring's season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and

coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn't.

Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball looking for new players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother’s Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league still plans

to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league’s commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.

GOLF from page 7

will get back to that eventually. For now, let’s enjoy the game with honor and begin to show once again that Massachusetts has the most enthusiastic golf community in the country.

In order to ensure that upon reopening that all courses will operate in a safe and effective manner, we have provided the following guidance:

Updated guidelines for golf course:
Security personnel can be delineated by each club (ex. A pro and the head starter) and will be present to enforce social distancing. There can be no other employees working at the recreational component of the golf operation.

All staff must wear face coverings while on property.

Course facilities including but not limited to the clubhouse, golf shop, restaurant, bag room and locker room must remain closed.

No caddies allowed.
No golf carts allowed, except as outlined below:

The use of a motorized cart may be permitted for any individual with a disability who is seeking a reasonable accommodation to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A golfer who wants to use a cart should provide documentation or otherwise certify in writing to the golf course that he or she has a disability that requires the use of the cart.

Any carts used must be cleaned and sanitized after each use. The course operator may not use non-essential employees to handle the renting and/or cleaning of the carts. Only security and groundskeeping personnel are permitted on the premises.

Push carts may be used. Players must either carry their own bag or use a push cart.

All golfers must maintain proper social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times.

Groups of players are restricted to no

more than 4 players at one time.

Members-only clubs can allow guests as determined by the security personnel on the golf course.

Private clubs that allow non-members to make reservations can do so at their discretion.

Maintenance personnel are permitted to work on the golf course.

Tee Time Policy must be 15 minutes between groups.

Golfers must stay in their car until 15 minutes before their tee time and must return to their car immediately following play.

Online and remote payment options must be utilized.

All golfers must use their own golf clubs. Sharing golf clubs or rental golf clubs is not allowed.

Flagsticks must remain in the hole. Hole liners must be raised so picking a ball out of the hole doesn’t occur.

Bunker rakes must be removed, and ball washers must be removed or covered.

Practice putting green, driving range, and chipping areas must be closed.

Facilities must have readily accessible hand sanitizer.

“The Alliance of Massachusetts Golf Organizations (AMGO) would like to thank the Re-Opening Advisory Board for their hard work and diligence during this process to resume play in Massachusetts. AMGO is continuing to work with the Governor’s Administration to identify and develop additional solutions to emerging issues in the golf industry and to keep them informed on the needs of our community. We understand that many golfers require cart usage for medical reasons or disabilities, which was originally part of our request to the Re-Opening Advisory Board on May 2. We have and will continue to request such adjustments to the guidelines as appropriate to keep everyone safe and to ensure the whole community is able to enjoy the necessary physical and mental exercise that we all need during this time.”

Sign-ups on hold for Quabbin League

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going forward. The

league is hopefully to begin play sometime in June or July. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. A modified schedule is being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

VOLLEYBALL from page 7

is a true motivator and one of the hardest working student-athletes I have had the pleasure of coaching. His efforts did not go unnoticed as he earned captains honors for the 2020 season. Nate will be attending Western New England University and majoring in Criminal Justice next fall. I wish him the best of luck during the next stage of his football career.”

Daniel Mogan would have served as the libero for the team this year.

He had a big junior year with 238 digs and 18 services aces.

“Dan has been an exciting player to watch his entire volleyball career,” said Dussault. “He is a true competitor who gives his all day in and day out. You can see the love and passion Dan has for the sport of volleyball the second he steps on the court.”

Dussault said Marcel Chavez would have been a great utility player this season. She said he played several different positions last year.

“I admire Marcel’s drive, work ethic, and adaptability on and off the court,” she said. “He is well respected by all coaches and teammates and will always keep you laughing.”

Alex Smith was a middle hitter last year. Dussault said he would have continued in the same role.

“I was very excited to see what he would have accomplished this year,” said Dussault. “He has excelled tremendously in the sport of volleyball. I will miss his determination and his eagerness to improve his game.”

Nathan Ittner was coming back from a season-ending ankle injury. Dussault was excited to have him back in the lineup.

“I was extremely eager to witness Ittners play this season,” said Dussault. “He is a positive role model and motivated player that will be truly missed by all.”

Dussault says she has been talking with her players via Zoom, and hopes to have an event of some kind for her seniors when she is cleared to do so in order to celebrate the Class of 2020.



Marcel Chavez is one of five seniors who would have been part of Comp volleyball in 2020.



Nathaniel Ittner was poised for a comeback year after an injury ended his junior season.



Alex Smith goes for a block during last year’s action.

BASKETBALL from page 7

Mohegan Sun box Office and Ticketmaster in September 2020. Specially discounted two-day ticket packages will start at \$25 and offer a savings of 30 percent or more (off the single day rates). Game times and television details will be released at a later date. As the health and safety of the athletes, fans and staff is of the utmost importance, the Basketball Hall of Fame will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely in the coming months and provide updates as needed.

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Chicopee Comp student earns scholarship through MSCPA

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants announced that Kassandra Guerrero, of Chicopee, was awarded the Emerging Diversity & Inclusion Scholar Award from the MSCPA’s Educational Foundation. Guerrero, a student at Chicopee Comprehensive High School and Holyoke Community College, was one of 37 students selected to receive a scholarship from the Educational Foundation’s 2020 Scholarship Program.

Scholarships are funded through donations to the MSCPA’s Educational Foundation. This year, the MSCPA presented a record \$146,500 in scholarships to students. The mission of the MSCPA’s Educational Foundation is to inspire and support the next generation of CPAs in Massachusetts. For more information about the Educational Foundation and its scholarship program, visit mscpaonline.org/about/educational_foundation.

Students graduate from UNH

DURHAM, N.H. – The University of New Hampshire recently announced its Class of 2020 graduates, earning their degrees through a virtual celebration Saturday, May 16, including two Chicopee students. A traditional in-person commencement ceremony will take place at a date to be determined.

Taylor Boisjolie graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. Sara Dymek earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

Students graduate only after the Registrar’s Office certifies all degree requirements have been successfully completed. To graduate magna cum laude a student must have a GPA between 3.65 and 3.84.

Derek Girouard recognized for scholarship, excellence at Assumption

WORCESTER – Assumption College is honoring 80 students who have been recognized with departmental honors, special awards and Augustine Scholarships, academic awards for those who excel in their field of study.

Derek Girouard, Class of 2021, of Chicopee, received the Dr. Eugene W. Byrnes Scholarship in the Natural Sciences.

Each spring, an Honors Convocation is held to recognize those students who have received one of the aforementioned academic awards, which honor academic excellence, passion, and a commitment to learning. The departmental and special awards allow faculty to honor the most meritorious students in each of their primary programs of study while Augustine Scholarships are given to rising juniors and seniors whose academic achievement, leadership, character, and community service embody the Assumption mission.

BROADBAND from page 4

done from home. When we emerge from this crisis, our understanding of the Internet will never be the same. Telework and telehealth — terms that many of us have heard for the first time — will become commonplace.

Cities like Chicopee are building a digital infrastructure that matches the Internet’s importance in our lives. Digital inequality existed before this pandemic, and the crisis demands that we act even more swiftly to address it. Chicopee’s investment in municipal broadband is the first step, but we, and cities across the country, must commit to further investment to build a more prosperous and equitable society. It is becoming more and more clear why a fast, reliable Internet connection is absolutely essential for today and for our future.

Joel D. McAuliffe is a city councilor representing Ward 1 in Chicopee, Massachusetts.

Senate votes to allow short-term borrowing during remote session

BOSTON – The state Senate convened for the first-ever remote session in the history of the body May 14 to pass legislation allowing short-term borrowing to meet the commonwealth’s financial obligations.

“It is vital that we meet our fiscal obligations, protect taxpayers and take care of our budget challenges during this pandemic,” said Sen. Eric Lesser, D-Longmeadow. “Today marked a milestone for the Senate in creating unique remote solutions to conduct business and maintain the democratic process.”

The legislation, “An Act to Facilitate the Delay of the Income Tax Filing Deadline,” complements executive action taken in early April to extend the income tax filing deadline to July 15, 2020, which provided flexibility to residents and families across the state amid the COVID-19 State of Emergency. The extension mirrors actions taken on the federal level.

To ensure budgetary stability, the bill allows the treasurer to borrow during fiscal 2020 to meet financial obligations that would normally be fulfilled through income tax filings.

The bill now heads to the governor’s desk.

Renowned researcher, educator named dean of WNE College of Pharmacy

SPRINGFIELD – Dr. John Pezzuto has been named dean and professor of pharmaceuticals of the Western New England University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Dr. Linda E. Jones, University provost, recently made the announcement of his appointment, which will begin this summer.

“Dr. Pezzuto’s credentials as a world-renowned researcher, pharmaceutical administrator and innovative educator for more than 35 years make him an outstanding addition to the Western New England University faculty,” Jones said in a press release.

Most recently, Pezzuto served as dean and professor of pharmacy of the Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. Previously, he served as distinguished professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and held deanships at the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Sciences at Purdue University; and the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, where he was the founding dean.

Pezzuto was the 2014 recipient of the Volwiler Research Award, the top research award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He is an author of over 600 publications, including the first report describing the cancer preventive activity of resveratrol, a component of grapes and grape products such as red wine. This single manuscript has been cited more than 5,000 times, and resveratrol is now in numerous clinical trials and the subject of more than 20,000 manuscripts.

Pezzuto’s is an inventor/co-inventor of several patents, the editor of six books, a member of over 10 editorial boards of international journals, the former editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Pharmacognosy (1990-1995), the former editor-in-chief of Combinatorial Chemistry and High Throughput Screening (1996-1997), and the current editor-in-chief of Pharmaceutical Biology.

He has served on the National Cancer Institute subcommittee on cancer epidemiology, prevention and control, and was the recipient of a Research Career Development Award from the National Cancer Institute (1984-1989) and a Research Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (1990-1991). He will be transferring major grant funding to Western New England University when he joins the faculty, and continuing research to explore the health benefits of grapes.

Pezzuto earned an A.B. in Chemistry from Rutgers University, a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and a D.Sc. (h.c.) from Roskilde University, Denmark. Postdoctoral work was performed at MIT.



Dr. John Pezzuto

PUBLIC NOTICES

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A
Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on May 29, 2020 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2004 CADILLAC DEVILLE
VIN: 1G6KD54YX4U250342
Andres Ortiz
18 Snell St
Sturbridge, MA 01566

2007 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 1HGCM66567A103176
Jessica Shleigh
1 Harwood Cross Rd
Brookfield, MA 01506

2007 MAZDA 6
VIN: 1YVHP84C575M56598
Shaunna Shea
17 Raymond Dr
Hampden, MA 01036

2009 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
VIN: KMHDU46D99U816021
Jenny Lee Verville
50 Theroux Dr
Chicopee, MA 01020

2012 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN: 1N4AL2EP6CC132119
Lamier Owens
13 Underwood St
Springfield, MA 01104

2012 RAM RAM3500
VIN: 3C63D3CLXCG102096
Starlight Auto
70 Switzer Av
Springfield, MA 01109

2014 DODGE AVENGER
VIN: 1C3CDZAB3EN216333
Sierra Kong
50 Harding St
Agawam, MA 01001

2019 SUBARU IMPREZA
VIN: 4S3GKAA66K3628423
Donlen Trust
3000 Lakeside Dr
Bannockburn Dr
Bannockburn, IL 60015
5/14, 5/21, 5/28/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20P0722EA Estate of: Teri Marie Voight Also known as: Teri M Voight Date of Death: 04/01/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative**

has been filed by: **Kylie Rae Voight** of Three Rivers, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kylie Rae Voight** of Three Rivers, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on **06/04/202**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Represent-

ative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 07, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
5/21/2020

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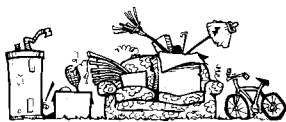
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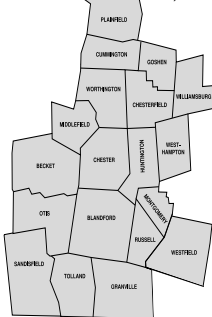
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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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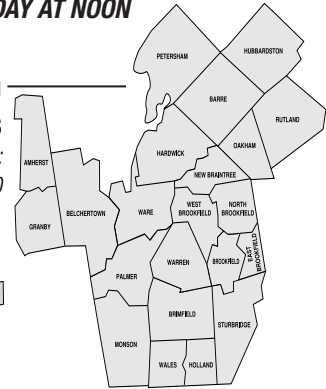
Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500



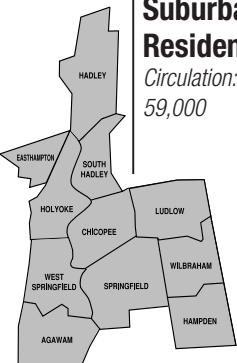
Hilltowns

Circulation: 9,800

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.



Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000



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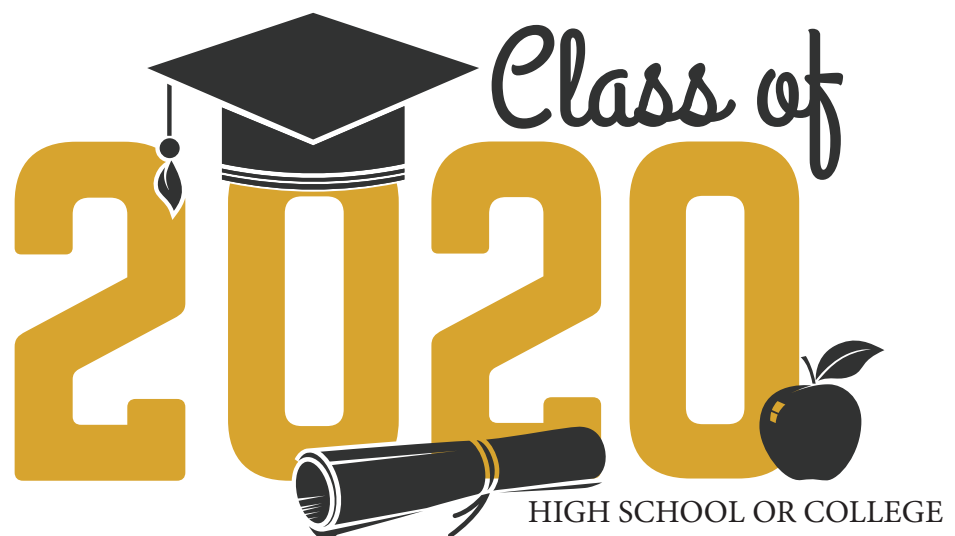


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Stop & Shop gives back during virus pandemic

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

For many of the small businesses that are struggling to outlast the pandemic, survival is the sole priority. Other, larger corporations have the luxury to contribute to the survival of their communities as a whole, and Stop & Shop is chief among them.

Stop & Shop, a supermarket chain with hundreds of stores scattered across Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island, including Memorial Drive in Chicopee, is making a concerted effort to give back. External Communications/Community Relations Manager Maura O'Brien shed light on the brand's ongoing charitable endeavors.

"Stop & Shop donated one million dollars to be divided among its 13 re-

gional food bank partners. The money supported food banks in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey in their efforts to fight food insecurity amid the current pandemic," said O'Brien.

On a daily basis, the chain is also donating 5,000 free fresh meals to health care first responders at hospitals in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. In Connecticut, Stop & Shop donated more than 30 pallets of essential goods such as toilet paper, peanut butter and reusable bags to Hartford Hospital.

"We have also donated more than \$50,000 of food to both the Connecticut Food Bank and Feeding Westchester, two of the counties in Stop & Shop's operating area that have been hardest hit by COVID-19. Assisting those who are food inse-



STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON DZBIERSKI

Across its market area, including a store on Memorial Drive, Stop & Shop is helping to make a difference in the novel coronavirus pandemic.

cure, along with front line workers, throughout this crisis is integral to our communities during this time," said O'Brien.

In response to the pandemic, Stop and Shop launched the "Please" campaign, urging customers to take simple but necessary steps to increase the safety of employees and

fellow customers. Among their recommendations, the campaign encourages customers to shop solo and wear masks or face coverings in accordance with established public health guidelines.

A number of changes have been made inside each of the chain stores to protect against the spread

of the new coronavirus. Clear plastic guards have been installed at registers and pharmacies, and signage and floor decals are present in stores to remind customers to stand six-feet apart.

The signs can be found at every register, on the front doors and all throughout the interior of each store. After noting that online pickup orders are rising in demand, O'Brien discussed another significant development.

"Aisles are now one-way traffic only and occupancy limits have been instituted in our stores as well," she said. "Whenever possible, we are opening only every other register lane to create further distancing between customers at check out instead of opening lanes right next to each other."

Stop & Shop has not only increased its own cleaning and sanitation efforts, the chain has hired third party cleaning services to tend to the stores. Management is doing all it can to decrease risk; workers are required to wear masks and are taking an abundance of "extraordinary steps" to maintain

safe shopping conditions.

"We have a dedicated person at every one of our stores cleaning from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. – in addition to what our associates are doing. To help prevent the spread of germs, our associates are conducting hand-washing, as well as using hand sanitizer," said O'Brien.

In each town in which a Stop & Shop location operates, management has communicated with local fire marshals to determine the appropriate capacity for each store. Store management is tasked with enforcing the limits each day.

"We recognize that our associates continue to put forth hard work and effort to serve our communities during the COVID-19 emergency. We recently announced that our associates deserve recognition as temporary first responders," said O'Brien. "With this, we announced that our associates would receive an additional 10 percent increase above their base salary through May 30 when we are hopeful that, along with the rest of the country, we will be moving towards a return to normalcy."

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